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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Abidjan Bureau

FROM:	EXTENSION	NO.
Chief, Operations Group		DATE June 1987

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. Chief, WSS				OPS-2 AB
2. Chief, Comm Ctr		21/7		
3. SA/CD	7/21			
4.				
5.				
6. Chief, MOD				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				

FORM 1-79 **610** USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
ABIDJAN BUREAU

MAB 6036
1 July 87

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THRU: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--June 1987

I. GENERAL

The spring rainy season has so far produced a significantly lower level of rainfall than in recent years and water levels in the country's dams are relatively low. This raises the spectre of severe power outages such as those which plagued Ivory Coast during the dry season in 1983-84. The Ivory Coast Electric Power Company, however, has assured readers of the daily newspaper, FRATERNITE MATIN, that it has already taken precautions to guarantee regular power production by gradually increasing the percentage of thermal electricity generated as compared to hydroelectric power. Consequently the country would be less dependent on water resources. At the same time, the power company is warning consumers that the costs of producing thermal electricity are much higher than hydroelectric power since the country's power infrastructure is based primarily on the latter. We can expect our utility bills to be affected by the increase in production costs if thermal electricity is relied upon.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Ivorian President Houphouet-Boigny put on a rather impressive show of statesmanship during June by hosting a wide variety of high-level guests. Among those visiting were the heads of state of Chad and Nigeria, the PRC and Ghanaian foreign ministers, Israeli Prime Minister, Shamir (who described his visit here as the "highlight" of his West African tour), a high-level Libyan delegation bringing an Al-Qadhdhafi message, and the director of the IMF. The bureau translated numerous related items into French for the Ivorian Foreign Ministry and kept our embassy current on developments. One issue of particular local interest was Ghanaian claims of Ivory Coast possibly being a staging ground for Ghanaian dissidents intent on ousting Flight Lt. Rawlings.

2. Liberian President Doe continued his crackdown on public corruption with the expulsion of several Lebanese businessmen for allegedly avoiding taxes, the firing of power sector employees in connection with the disappearance of $7 million in fuel, and the firing of the entire Supreme Court, widely viewed as corrupt. The Israeli premier also visited Liberia during June.

3. Other regional developments included Mauritania breaking diplomatic relations with Iran, Togo reestablishing diplomatic relations with Israel, and student unrest in Ghana. The seemingly interminable trial of ex-Emperor Bokassa

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in the CAR finally ended with his being sentenced to death for a variety of crimes. Although Head of State Kolingba ruled out any immediate clemency, the anticipated violent reaction by Bokassa's ethnic supporters never materialized.

B. Communications

1. The bureau experienced some problems in opening the circuit in the earlier part of the month when [redacted] failed to respond to our normal opener. STAT
The commo operators had been following a procedure initiated several years ago where the equipment is powered down at closure, which now appears to create unstable conditions on the circuit at [redacted] As a temporary solution, the STAT
bureau interface unit's (QEI) power is left on after closure.

2. Minor hardware problems which put the BACH system out of service at the beginning of the month were repaired and the system is now back on-line. The commo section is using BACH in conjunction with the manual system until the physical layout of the section can be changed to accomodate additional equipment.

C. Technical

The following nonexpendables were received during the month: 3 Frederick 1203 demodulators, 1 Watkins-Johnson 8718 receiver, and 1 Extel B-405 tape punch (from Nicosia).

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. London Bureau senior associate editor [redacted] departed on 5 STAT
June after a 3-week TDY.

2. Staff engineer [redacted] arrived on 5 June for a 5-week TDY STAT
to fill in for bureau engineer [redacted] who is on R&R in CONUS. STAT

3. FBN's [redacted] and STAT
[redacted] received PSI's during the month. STAT

B. Buildings and Grounds

Editor [redacted] moved into a new residence on 9 June and the STAT
lease on her former residence was dropped. The costs associated with the move --GSO packers and movers, generator removal, preparation of the house for return to the landlord--were paid for out of the Embassy's residential security fund since the RSO had recommended the move for security reasons.

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C. Other

In keeping with the Embassy's newly established smoking policy, a bureau smoking policy was implemented on 2 June. Smoking areas have been designated and "defense de fumer" signs posted.

STAT

Bureau Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau
Deputy Chief, London Bureau

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